IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) A perpendicular magnetic recording head, comprising:

a main pole configured to generate a recording magnetic field in a perpendicular direction;

an auxiliary pole connected to the main pole on a leading side to the main pole; and

a write shield ~~arranged apart from~~ detached and uncoupled to the main pole on a trailing side to the main pole, the write shield ~~and~~ having a multilayered structure in which a nonmagnetic layer is sandwiched between magnetic layers, ~~the write shield~~ and comprising a central portion and edge portions along a track width direction and having such a shape that has a thickness that is larger in each of the edge portions than that in the central portion.

4. (Previously Presented) The perpendicular magnetic recording head according to claim 3, wherein the write shield has such a shape such that a number of stacks of the magnetic layer and the nonmagnetic layer are larger in each of the edge portions than those in the central portion along the track width direction.

5. (Previously Presented) The perpendicular magnetic recording head according to claim 3, wherein the auxiliary pole comprises a multilayered structure in which a nonmagnetic layer is sandwiched between magnetic layers.

6.-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A magnetic disc apparatus, comprising:

a double layered perpendicular recording medium comprising a soft magnetic underlayer and a perpendicular recording layer, which are formed on a substrate; and

a perpendicular magnetic recording head comprising:

a main pole configured to generate a recording magnetic field in a perpendicular direction,

an auxiliary pole connected to the main pole on a leading side to the main pole, and

a write shield ~~arranged apart from~~ detached and uncoupled to the main pole on a trailing side to the main pole, the write shield ~~and~~ having a multilayered structure in which a nonmagnetic layer is sandwiched between magnetic layers, the write shield comprising a central portion and edge portions along a track width direction and having such a shape that has a thickness that is larger in each of edge portions than that in a central portion.

9. (Previously Presented) The magnetic disc apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the write shield has such a shape that a number of stacks of the magnetic layer and the nonmagnetic layer are larger in each of the edge portions than those in the central portion in the track width direction.

10. (Previously Presented) The magnetic disc apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the auxiliary pole comprises a multilayered structure in which a nonmagnetic layer is sandwiched between magnetic layers.